

We claim:

1. A method for a mobile device to receive and render an incoming fax message, the method including the steps:

a) receiving an incoming fax message from a calling party via a wireless network;

b) activating a user cue to notify a user associated with the mobile device the incoming fax message was received;

c) in response to user interaction with the mobile device, displaying information about the incoming fax message on a graphical user interface; and

d) in response to user interaction with the mobile device, communicating the incoming fax message to an external rendering device via an output port.

2. The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the output port includes at least one of a cable connection, a radio frequency (RF) interface, and an infrared (IR) frequency interface.

3. The method set forth in claim 2 wherein the cable connection is a USB cable connection.

4. The method set forth in claim 2 wherein the RF interface is an IEEE 802.11 interface.

5. The method set forth in claim 1, further including the step:

e) storing the incoming fax message in a storage device within the mobile device.

6. The method set forth in claim 1, further including the step:

e) storing the incoming fax message in a storage device associated with the wireless network.

7. The method set forth in claim 1, between steps b) and c), further including the step:
- e) displaying a listing of incoming fax messages for selection by the user.
8. The method set forth in claim 1, further including the step:
- e) connecting the external rendering device to the output port;
 - f) rendering the incoming fax message on the external rendering device.
9. The method set forth in claim 8 wherein the external rendering device includes at least one of a printing device, a fax reader, and a display device.
10. The method set forth in claim 8 wherein the connecting in step e) is accomplished by moving the mobile device or the external rendering device within communicative range of each other.
11. A method for a mobile device to send an outgoing fax message, the method including the steps:
- a) storing one or more fax contents in a first storage device associated with the mobile device;
 - b) in response to user interaction with the mobile device, generating an outgoing fax message including at least one selected fax content from the one or more fax contents stored in the first storage device and initiating an outgoing call via a wireless network associated with the mobile device to a recipient of the outgoing fax message; and
 - c) after the recipient answers the call, sending the outgoing fax message to the recipient.
12. The method set forth in claim 11, before step a), further including the steps:

d) connecting an external device to an input port on the mobile device;
and

e) uploading a data file from a second storage device associated with the external device to the first storage device associated with the mobile device.

13. The method set forth in claim 12 wherein the external device includes a scanning device and the method further includes the step:

f) scanning a document to be included in the outgoing fax message to create the data file; and

g) storing the data file in the second storage device.

14. The method set forth in claim 12 wherein the connecting in step d) is accomplished by moving the mobile device or the external device within communicative range of each other.

15. The method set forth in claim 12 wherein the connecting in step d) is accomplished by connecting a cable between the mobile device and the external device.

16. A mobile device for receiving and rendering an incoming fax message via a wireless network and for sending an outgoing fax message via the wireless network, the mobile device including:

means for receiving an incoming fax message from a calling party via the wireless network;

a controller in communication with the receiving means to control the mobile device;

a user cue in communication with the controller to notify a user associated with the mobile device that the incoming fax message was received;

a keypad in communication with the controller to acknowledge receipt of the incoming fax message;

means for activating and de-activating the user cue in response to operation of the receiving means and keypad;

a graphical user interface in communication with the controller to display information about the incoming fax message; and

an output port in communication with the receiving means and controller for communicating the incoming fax message to an external rendering device via the output port.

17. The mobile device set forth in claim 16, further including:

means for storing one or more fax contents in a first storage device associated with the mobile device.

18. The mobile device set forth in claim 16, further including:

means for storing the incoming fax message in a storage device within the mobile device.

19. The mobile device set forth in claim 16, further including:

means for storing one or more data files in a first storage device associated with the mobile device;

means for generating an outgoing fax message including at least one selected data file from the one or more stored data files stored in the first storage device;

means for initiating an outgoing call via the wireless network to a recipient of the outgoing fax message; and

means for sending the outgoing fax message to the recipient.

20. The mobile device set forth in claim 20, further including:

an input port in communication with the storing means and the controller for uploading the one or more data files from an external device; and

means for uploading the one or more data files from the external device to the storing means via the input port.